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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

HU, HENRY S

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

1. Applicants' **Pre-Amendment** and **one IDS** (1 page) are filed along with this application on September 18, 2006. This Application is a **371/PCT/JP05/04102** with a Japanese priority at March 9, 2005. With such a pre-amendment, **only the improper multiple claim dependency is removed, while new Claims 16-20 are added.** The examiner **accepts Figures 1-13 in thirteen drawing sheets** filed by the Applicants on June 21, 2006 along with this application (a brief description for drawing is on pages **8-10**). **Claims 1-20 with a total of five independent claims (Claims 1, 8, 9, 14 and 15)** are now pending. An action follows.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, this is based on the preliminary search done by the examiner as well as by examining the references cited in international search report and IDS filed by Applicants.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted as following: It is noted that **five independent claims are marked with an underline**

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I. **Claims 1-7 and 16-18**, drawn to **a process of forming a thin film comprising vinylidene fluoride homopolymer**, which comprises I-form crystal structure alone or as main component. The process comprises **one** single step of applying on substrate as specified.

II. **Claims 8 and 10-13**, drawn to **a laminated article** which has on a substrate a “**self-organized**” thin film formed by using vinylidene fluoride homopolymer, which comprises I-form crystal structure alone or as main component.

III. **Claims 9 and 19-20**, drawn to **a different laminated article** (versus Group II) which has on a substrate a “**thin**” thin film formed by **bonding** of vinylidene fluoride homopolymer, which comprises I-form crystal structure alone or as main component.

IV. **Claim 14**, drawn to **a vinylidene fluoride homopolymer** represented by **formula (IA-2):** $Z^1-(R^{10})_{n1}-A^1-(R^{11})_{n2}-S-M^1$ with all factors as specified.

V. **Claim 15**, drawn to **a different vinylidene fluoride homopolymer** (versus Group IV) represented by **formula (IB-3):** $M^2-S-(R^{12})_{n3}-A^2-R^2-A^3-(R^{13})_{n4}-S-M^3$ with all factors as specified.

3. Where the group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international application, the requirement for unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression “**special technical features**” shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions considered as a whole, **makes over the prior art**. The inventions listed as Groups I-V do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, although they share the special technical feature, this special technical feature does not define a contribution over the prior art for the following reasons:

4. In view of Examiner’s own prior art search as well as the references or articles cited in one **IDS** filed so far by Applicants, **Claims 1-20** is either obvious or anticipated by following: **JP 10-212322 to Satoshi et al., JP 03-221510 to Moore, and JP 2002-249519 to Ramin et al.**, each individually or in combination. In summary, these five groups have no common features in the preparation as well as its application since they are structurally different. The scope of the claims, i.e., the metes and boundaries are distinct. Accordingly, the special technical feature linking the inventions, the vinylidene fluoride homopolymer for each group does not provide a contribution over the prior art, and no single general inventive concept exists. Therefore the restriction is appropriate.

5. With respect to the fact that “all groups are **structurally different** each other”, Group I relates to a process of making, Group IV/V each relates to a different vinylidene fluoride

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homopolymer product, while Group II/III each relates to a different laminated article by using such a product. To be specific, in the course of making laminated article Group II uses a self-organized film, while Group III uses a thin film. The vinylidene fluoride homopolymer as disclosed in Group IV is certainly different from that of Group V since different formula is applied. Particularly the end groups are quite different. They are thereby not interchangeable vinylidene fluoride homopolymer.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above shown as different subject matters and the search required for each group is not required for other groups have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. It is noted that no phone call was made to **Abraham J. Rosner (registration # 33,276, tel: 202 293-7060)** by the examiner to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement due to the complexity on multiple **(five)** distinct groups along with **five** independent claims. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

8. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

9. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to **Dr. Henry S. Hu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1103**. The examiner can be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM –5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on (571) 272-1119. The **fax** number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(571) 273-8300** for all regular communications.

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/Peter D. Mulcahy/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/Henry S. Hu/
Examiner, Art Unit 1796

September 15, 2009